

The Carswell Field **FLYER**

September/October Vol 6 | Issue 5

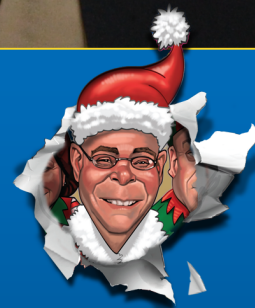
Texas Air National Guard | Fort Worth, Texas



WWII Vet receives DFC **After 68 agonizing years of uncertainty**

What new inspection system
Fitness assesment... a change is coming
Considering foreign travel

Stories in this issue...read on.



Christmas is coming !

Commander's Comments

Welcome to October UTA



Col. John J. Conoley III
136 AW Commander

Welcome to October drill! The focus and priority of this drill is AFSC training. Your commanders voiced your disdain for ancillary training and passion for AFSC training! Because of that, October drill has been set aside to concentrate on AFSC training—what most of us signed up for! Please feel free to let Chief Castle and I know how well it went.

As you know, the start of FY14 brought with it ongoing fiscal challenges resulting in a government shutdown. Of the 22 years I've been with our unit, we never experienced the effects of a government shutdown. Thank you for your patience as we navigated uncharted waters. Not only did the shutdown affect our full-time force, but also our drill status guardsmen – whom we rely on in order to execute our mission. Without them, our flying mission suffers, personnel actions slow down, legal issues do not get resolved, and medical packages are not reviewed. So again, thank you for your patience.

A recent change for our nation is the Affordable Care Act, which re-

quires Americans to acquire health care coverage for themselves and their dependents. Among the many advantages the Air National Guard has to offer, one is low cost health insurance. Eligible members may sign up for TRICARE Reserve Select at any time. TRICARE Reserve Select may be a cheaper insurance alternative to purchasing insurance on any insurance exchange. Current rates are about \$195 a month for member and family and only \$52.00 for member only coverage—just another benefit of being in the Guard.

We are now six months out from our Unit Effectiveness Inspection (UEI)! The UEI was formerly known as the CUI (Combined Unit Inspection) and has moved up a few weeks to April 2014. Check with your Unit for the new drill dates for April and May. The change to a UEI was driven by the new AF Inspection System. With a new Inspection System come philosophical changes. Instead of making a big prep push just prior to a major inspection we will now concentrate on always maintaining full-compliance as well as tracking/correcting our deficiencies. The end result will be a continuous state of compliance. This is a big change for us as well as the Air Force, but we are taking aggressive measures to ensure our success in April 2014!

As always, have fun and enjoy your drill!



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Cover Photo by
Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert
136th Airlift Wing/Public Affairs



Former 1st Lt. Thomas P. Faulkner, WWII pilot cuts the Distinguished Flying Cross cake with his wife at the 136th Airlift Wing in celebration for receiving the DFC, Sept. 19, 2013. ((Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert/released)

WWII pilot **honored** after 68 years

by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert and Staff Sgt. Phil Fountain
136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs/Texas Military Forces Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR STATION FORT WORTH JOINT RESERVE BASE, Texas (Sept. 19, 2013) – A World War II veteran was presented the Distinguished Flying Cross during a ceremony here at the 136th Airlift Wing, Texas Air National Guard, Sept. 19, 2013.

Thomas P. Faulkner of Dallas was presented the award for his actions while serving as a first lieutenant and bomber pilot with the U.S. Army Air Forces' 15th Air Force, in Italy. Faulkner, 88, earned the award when

he was 19, but he was never presented the medal or told of his receiving the award.

"The Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) was authorized by an Act of Congress, July 2, 1926, and amended by Executive Order 778-6, on Jan. 8, 1938," said Lt. Col. James Castleman, the wing's executive officer. "It was first awarded to Capt. Charles A. Lindbergh, U.S. Army (Air) Corps Reserve, for his solo flight of 3,600 miles across the Atlantic in 1927."

Additionally, the DFC is awarded to service members who distinguish themselves in combat for "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight," Castleman said.

A graduate of Highland Park High School in Dallas, Faulkner joined the armed forces while he was a student at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas – days after his 18th birthday and became one of the youngest pilots in the military.

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Former 1st Lt. Thomas Faulkner, a WWII pilot discusses his 28th mission with Major Gen. John Nichols, Adjutant General for Texas prior to the awarding of his Distinguished Flying Cross, Sept. 19, 2013. (Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert/ released)

During the war, Faulkner was stationed at San Giovanni Airfield, near Cerignola, Italy. On Feb. 27, 1945, during a mission over Augsburg, Germany, then-1st Lt. Faulkner piloted a B-24 Liberator aircraft, which became crippled due to engine failure and enemy fire, according to Air Force documents.

He was forced to separate from his formation. Recounting the mission – his 28th of the war – Faulkner said, “shortly after sustaining damage to the aircraft from flak, the aircraft descended at 500 feet per minute. We were losing altitude. Two of our four engines were (already) not working.”

“I didn’t think I could make it over the Alps to return back to our base in Italy,” he said. “(But) I wanted to make it to friendly territory.”

Under normal circumstances, Faulkner should have been able to pilot the B-24 to France, friendly territory, by that point of the war. However, on this mission, he was flying without a navigator, who was pulled from the flight at the last minute, and with a newly assigned co-pilot.

They completed their bombing run before having to land the damaged aircraft.

Serving as navigator was a bombardier with minimal navigation skills. Dur-

ing the return flight, the aircraft’s location was miscalculated and they were forced to land in Switzerland, a neutral country.

Maintenance records from the period indicate that Faulkner’s aircraft sustained damage to a wing and the flaps. Two engines were nearly out of oil and another was frozen. It was an amazing feat that he was able to safely land the aircraft at all.

“You got all your folks home safe,” said Maj. Gen. John F. Nichols, the adjutant general of Texas and commanding general of the Texas Military Forces, who presented the award to Faulkner, on behalf of the secretary of the Air Force.

“I put myself in his shoes a bit,” said Nichols, who’s also a command Air Force pilot. “You weren’t going to clear the Swiss Alps. You could have been one of those others we couldn’t find and wondered where you were.”

“Thank you for your service,” Nichols said. “I’m glad you got to find out about it.”

During World War II, the Geneva Convention (1929) in

effect required aircraft and aircrews landing in neutral territory to be permanently withdrawn from the war. Faulkner and his crew were interned for seven days by the Swiss army. Afterward, they were released as part of a prisoner exchange and were flown back to Italy, before returning to the United States.

While he was credited with saving the lives of his crew, Faulkner said he spent the next six decades doubting his decision, thinking he let down his squadron. He suffered from stress-induced insomnia and throat ailments, which required four surgeries.

“When I left, all four propellers were turning,” he said. “But one engine was totally dead – the prop was wind-milling. The other engine had no supercharger, so the propeller was not pulling any power.”

He did not learn until recently, when flight logs were discovered, that he did make the right calls during that 28th mission.

“There were records showing my plane (with) both engines were out,” Faulkner said. “There were records showing (that) my squadron saw my distress, I was dropping at 500 feet per



DFC continued on page 5



From left Charles Clever, Thomas Faulkner, Dan Matthews and Major Gen. John Nichols, Adjutant General for Texas pose for a group photo at the 136th Airlift Wing, Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, Sept. 19, 2013, after the ceremony. (Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert/released)

minute.”

Unbeknownst to Faulkner, one month after his return to the United States, he was awarded the DFC. But he was never presented it nor did his military discharge paperwork reflect the award.

“Not only had they not condemned me, that had given me a DFC,” Faulkner said. “That’s brought complete relief.”

After the war, Faulkner graduated from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, with a degree in business ad-

ministration, and then had a career in the insurance industry and is now an author. He’s been married to his wife for 65 years and they raised two children.

Faulkner and his family finally learned of the award this year.

“This thing had been discovered by Dan Matthews,” Faulkner said. “I didn’t know him – I didn’t shake his hand until this morning. He has done all of this for me, since last March.”

Matthews, of Minneapolis, is a retired airline executive and a research hobbyist focused on World War II aviation records. He said his hobby initially grew out of an interest in his father and uncle’s service in the war and lead to in-depth study in processes and records administration.

“I was able to learn how the Army and Army Air Forces were organized, what forms and documents were used, how they were prepared, what level organization gave approvals, awards and decorations, campaigns and how and where the records ended up getting filed,” Matthews said.

For about six months, Faulkner corresponded with

Matthews about his war experience, but they never met in person. Beginning as a simple search for flight records, the research led to the discovery of the award.

“I have met a lot of World War II veterans in my research over the years,” Matthews said, “and from a research standpoint, I could relate to who he was, where he was, the unit he was with and his flying of a B-24.”

“Although I don’t do this for a living, and really never anticipated spending much time on it, one thing led to the next and my curiosity and desire to find answers to help Mr. Faulkner somewhat drove the process,” he said.

It turned out that Faulkner was actually awarded the DFC on Apr. 20, 1945. But with the war in Europe ending shortly thereafter, the record did not make its way into Faulkner’s file before his honorable discharge.

“It sat dormant for 68 years in the file,” Matthews said. “One thing is for sure though, he now knows that the 15th Air Force knew then, in 1945, that he did it right on his 28th mission. There is no more reason for doubt, worry or fear of him not having done the right thing in landing that plane in Switzerland.”

Faulkner was in good spirits and was jovial in receiving the award.

“I don’t think that I’m the bravest pilot to receive the DFC,” Faulkner said, “but I bet that I’m the oldest pilot.”

“I’m so impressed,” Faulkner said of the ceremony. “It’s unbelievable. We certainly never expected anything like this at all. I love everything about the Air Force.”

While it took more than six decades to be recognized and to have his anxieties eased about his wartime service, Faulkner remained positive throughout the day’s events. He even passed on some wisdom to the younger generations.

“Never be discouraged and never give up,” Faulkner said. “I had given up on myself, until this revelation came up.”



What new **inspection** system

Editorial by George W. Holt
136th Airlift Wing Vice commander

I hope you have noticed some slight differences in the focus and attention being given to the new IG Shop and the Commanders Inspection Program (CCIP). For us to be successful in this transition our thinking has to change. When it comes to inspections, compliance, and self-assessment we aren't in Kansas anymore TOTO. For years we have spent tons of money to prepare for and execute UCIs, ORIs, HSIs, LCAPs etc. That is a thing of the past. The Air Force Chief of Staff has directed that he will now hold Wing CC's responsible for assessing Wing readiness, and capability to execute the mission. No more peaks in activity just in time for inspectors to roll through the gate. In one briefing the new mindset is described as "no more painting the grass." We will now be graded on how we fertilize and care for our grass all year. We will now be held accountable for assessing, and correcting any deficiencies as well as grading our Wing's ability to meet the mission.

What does that mean to you? MICT is now a daily tool used to document the processes, procedures, compliance and deficiencies, that we have throughout our Wing. Deficiencies are tracked until they are corrected. The fact that we had an issue in the past will be seen on subsequent inspections and will draw attention from our inspectors. All of our Wing Inspection Team will be trained on the IG ROE and procedures. Our Wing IG will enter ALL inspection results into the IG tracking system (IGEMS). All of our corrective actions and timelines will be visible for the various MAJCOM FAMs to look into our processes before they visit. Our processes are now transparent. The HQ/IG visit will be to verify that we are assessing ourselves accurately and dealing with deficiencies.

This is what Commanders have asked for in the past. The new process relies on our ability to openly and honestly complete our MICT checklists and follow thru on completing required inspections over a recurring 4 year cycle. Drill schedules will become more focused on assessments, inspections, home station exercises, and following thru on compliance issues.

Col. Conoley and I understand that this is a fundamental change in thinking and will require significant adjustments as we create the tools and measurements we need to certify this wing is ready to meet our wartime tasking. Don't get hung up on how we used to do things. Open up your thinking, honestly assess where you and your programs are, and realize **we are NOT prepping for an inspection**; we are changing a culture and way of doing business. I know it may

"We will now be graded on how we fertilize and care for our grass all year."

seem difficult up-front, but if we make a good transition to the new system, in the long term, we will all be able to perform at a higher level and avoid those terrible years with multiple deployed OREs before we get to the ORI. Here is a clip from the latest TIG Brief:

"The new inspection system at its core is about changing the way we think about inspections. The simplest definition of the word inspection is "the formal or official act of examining something closely." It is carefully and critically looking at how we do our job. Over the years we have "outsourced" this key activity to MAJCOM IGs. But, if you really understand the meaning of inspection, you can understand why this activity is EVERY Airman's re-



Col. George W. Holt
136 AW Vice Commander

sponsibility and cannot be outsourced. The new inspection system empowers Airmen at every level to examine their work closely and empowers Wing Commanders to formally inspect. It is built on trust. Trust that every Airman wants to improve and wants to make our Air Force better. But it also counts on verification, as defending our Nation is a "no fail" business. "Embrace the change, trust and verify." (Lt. Gen. Mueller)

Help us make the system work. By being one of the first ANG Wings to go thru the process, we have a unique opportunity to set the tone and standards for future inspections. We also realize that means we are "flying blind" in a lot of areas. We don't have years of experience to fall back on. We don't have four of these inspections under our belts. That uncertainty can and will most likely cause some angst. Don't stress about the new system, just continue to be the professional Airmen that our State and Nation rely on. It may seem weird, but this is the new normal. Don't buck the system as we work thru the growing pains. Help us define the measures, and standards that show the MAJCOMs that the 136th is truly NULLI SECUNDUS.

Liberty Jump Team

Perform at Alliance Airport **honoring** WWII heroes

Story and photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert
136th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

ALLIANCE AIRPORT, Texas— Seven members of the Liberty Jump Team to include U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Del Atkinson, 136th Security Forces Squadron, a former U.S. Army paratrooper, 101st Airborne Division (air assault) and Master Sgt. John Hawkins, 181st Special Operations Weather Flight, Texas Air National Guard, jumped out of a vintage C-47 aircraft here at Alliance, Oct. 18, 2013 during an air show.

“The team members perform commemorative parachute jumps honoring WWII heroes as well as veterans of all Wars and Foreign Conflicts to honor their sacrifices, their accomplishments, their memories and honor them,” said Atkinson.

Aside from jumping out of airplanes, the LJT also educates the general public on airborne operations and what it was like serving as an Army paratrooper during the war. Paratroopers pack their own chutes and instruct others on how to safely exit a C-47 Skytrain or C-7 Caribou aircraft during flight.

“This is the most fun I’ve ever had jumping with the LJT,” said Hawkins, a veteran jumper with more than 50 jumps under his belt.

The LJT performed for three days during the Alliance Airport annual air show from Oct. 18-20, 2013.



Around the **Wing**



Promotion **Chief Master Sgt. Del Atkinson**

When: Aug. 24, 2013
136th Security Forces Squadron
Superintendent



Retirement **Chief Master Sgt. Neelan Singh**

When: Aug. 24, 2013
136th Logistics Readiness Squadron
Superintendent



Promotion **Lt. Col. Gabrielle Dorais**

When: Sept. 29, 2013
136th Airlift Wing
Nurse

If you have an announcement please submit to
136AW.PA@ang.af.mil

THE HAPPENING

We had several visitors tour our Wing; from Congressman Marc Veasey, TX-33 (D), who learned what the Texas Military Forces Homeland Defense mission can provide along with JROTC students from Forney, Texas. We had Employer Support to Guard and Reserve (ESGR) participants learn about their Guardsman's military duties. Also our new band-building construction project operating at night. (Air National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert)



The Work Place

Airmen from the Wing are everywhere. Their work place ... wherever they show up to do what they do best, they represent the Texas Air National Guard with pride. (National Guard photos by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert, Master Sgt. Charles Hatton and Airman Cody Witsaman)



Health, **Nutrition** and Fitness

A **change** is coming

Commentary by Master Sgt. Rikki Johnson
force Support Squadron/Sustainment Services Flight

It is evident that the Air Force Fitness Program is not going away and is only getting tougher on its standards. The CSAF sent an email a few months ago on upcoming changes to the program effective Oct 1, 2013. While there has been no formal notification of those changes and the new methods to obtain a body fat measurement, the AF Times did an article on it. It was very interesting to say the least and these are some of the highlights of the article:

—The new body fat standards are the toughest in all of the Armed Forces. While it was originally said that if you are a person who passes every component of the fitness assessment except the abdominal circumference, you will get two opportunities to pass the test with another method of measuring body fat. The first is to take your body mass index (BMI). For example, an Airman with a BMI equal or less than 25 will pass and an Airman with a BMI greater than 25 will fail. This is standard for both gender and age groups and is based on the height and weight of a person. If you fail the BMI then a body fat analysis will be taken. For women, they will be measured (taped) at the neck, waist and hips, and if the body fat percentage is equal to or less than 26% she will pass. Anything greater than 26% is a failure. For men, a measurement at the neck and waist will be done and if it is equal to or less than 18% he passes and anything more than that is a failure. With these changes, if an Airman passes the additional tests then they will be marked as exempt from the AC measurement and will be scored on



all of the other components. If they fail all three measuring components then the test will be entered with the original AC measurement.—

Another tentative change to the test is deleting the heart rate factor from the one mile walk test. Lastly, if a person wants to appeal their PT scores they can do so through their wing commanders instead of the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records. The Wing Fitness Program Manager will be able to delete such tests at direction of the wing commander by written notification.

While there has been no formal notification of the changes we know they are coming. Continue to make healthy decisions daily and give yourself 45-60 minutes of vigorous workouts 4-5 days a week. Set yourself up for success for the Air Force and for your life.



Airmen of the 136th Airlift Wing are testing for their annual fitness assessment at Naval Air Station Fort Worth Joint Reserve Base, Texas, Sept. 27, 2013. (photos by U. S. Air National Guard Airman Cody Witsaman/ released.)



Considering **foreign** travel

Commentary by Major Camille LaDrew
136th Security Forces Squadron/Antiterrorism Officer

Considering a Taste Tour of Italy? How about a heritage trip overseas?....Maybe a Spring Break trip to Mexico.

There are a few things to keep in mind if you are planning a foreign travel trip. The first thing to know is there are different rules for AGRs and traditional members. AGRs are **REQUIRED** to receive a foreign travel brief from the Antiterrorism Office **BEFORE** you book your travel reservations. Please keep in mind that depending on what the Force Protection Condition is, some locations will actually require a brief by our local AFOSI detachment.

For AGRs (or personnel on Title 10 orders) wanting to travel to Mexico there are a couple things to know. First, there are currently 12 Mexican States where non-official travel (Leave/Pass) is prohibited. If you require to travel to a prohibited state such as a family emergency please immediately contact the AT office for information on how to get a special waiver. Secondly, any travel (Leave or Official) to Mexico requires also requires approval by the first O-6 in your chain of command and the foreign travel brief from the ATO office **BEFORE** you pay for any reservations.

For Traditionals, these briefings are not required (unless your unit leadership



Colorado mountain high. The United States has many beautiful locations, too often taken for granted. Consider taking your next vacation stateside and visit our National Parks. By car, the Colorado mountains are only 12 hours

has mandated it, please check with your chain of command) but can be provided for any location. The intent of this DoD policy is to keep you and your family safe and aware while on travel so you can better enjoy your trip and return home safely. You should also notify your security manager of foreign travel.

You are the 136th AW's and USAF's number one asset. If you have any ques-

tions on a specific location or whether you need a brief or not feel free to contact myself or MSgt David Rogers.

Major Camille LaDrew
817-852-3600

(Acting) 136 AW ATO

COMM: 817-852-3478

BB: 817-658-6132

DoD PD LE Desk: 817-782-5200

November **Holiday** happenings



Sunday, November 18, 2013, The Family Readiness Group will hold their annual Children's Holiday celebration to include a visit from Santa. There will be light snacks, drinks, games and crafts for all children of the Wing family. Santa will arrive at 1:30 pm by the fuel cell hangar. Every child will be given the opportunity to sit with Santa and receive a present. So make plans to come with your family and enjoy the celebration.

Family **Readiness** Group

by Mrs. Heidi Bearden
136th Airlift Wing
Airman Family Readiness Program Manager

With all the recent budget uncertainty I know that a lot of you may have questions about resources which I may be able to assist you. I have listed several below and of course you can always call the office at (817)852-3558.

Military OneSource: Free service to Service Members and their Families to help with concerns including money management, spouse employment and education, parenting and child care, relocation, deployment, reunion and the particular concerns of families with special-needs members. They can also assist with more complex issues like relationships, stress, and grief. All services are free & confidential and are available 24/7 Visit www.militaryonesource.com or call 1-800-342-9647.

Employee Assistance Program (EAP): The EAP (FOH4you) is a confidential counseling and referral service that can help you and your family successfully deal with life's challenges. EAP services are available to you at no cost, as your employer has prepaid these services. Call 24

hours a day, seven days a week for confidential help with work, family, personal matters, legal or financial issues.

FOH Employee Assistance Program Website: www.foh4you.com or 1-800-222-0364.

TX Vet Centers: Counseling services for: individual, group, sexual trauma, bereavement, family counseling related to the Veteran's Readjustment Problems that affect the family. Spouses and/or Family Workshops, spouses groups. Alcohol/Drug abuse screening, assessment, referrals and relapse prevention counseling, referrals for Veterans benefits, employment related counseling when readjustment issues affect employment referrals to community agencies, community education and outreach <http://www.vetcenter.va.gov/> 1-800-826-1880.

Need Help Paying Bills? Find programs and ways to get help with paying bills, debts, and your monthly mortgage payment. And find an extensive list of how to get help and save on other bills, such as groceries, insurance and child care expenses

to name a few. Also find free government grants and low income assistance programs. Visit www.needhelppayingbills.com/index.html for more information and you can customize the list specific to the state you live in!

Federal Employee Education & Assistance Fund: FEEA's Emergency Assistance Program provides confidential grants and no-interest loans to federal employees facing unexpected financial hardships.

www.feea.org or 1-800-323-4140.

The TXNG Family Support Foundation assist all TXNG Service Members and their Families regardless of their deployment status; grant or loan; Send application to <http://www.txngfoundation.org/> :

Luann Barron (512) 782-1954
Lu.a.barron.ctr@mail.mil

UNMET Needs will help any Service Member or their Families of every branch (VFW) up to \$2500; also have access to other funds/grants for injured vets fax application to Dan West or Beth Creasey (fax no. for both 512-834-9232); www.unmet-needs.com

AROWS **electronic** certification

by Senior Master Sgt. Sharon Rodriguez
136th Comptroller Flight/Superintendent

Effective 1 Oct 2013, members will e-certify their statement of duty electronically and members who are entitled to local mileage will be able to claim their mileage on the same statement. (DTS will not be authorized for local mileage input)

E- Certification Requirements

- Orders 29 days or less; e-certification cannot occur until end date of order.

- Orders 30 days or more; e-certification CAN occur on start date of order.

- Orders not applicable for E-Certification

Activation- Full/Partial Mobilization Statutory Tour, Formal Schools, Civilian PCS, AGR and Active Duty/TDY Travel Only

Military and veteran **Bills**

83rd Legislature - **Major** Bills (sent to Governor)

The 83rd Texas Legislature convened with numerous bills sent forth to Governor Perry's office affecting the military and veterans. Here are the passed and proposed Bills:

The Legislature identified employment challenges for spouses of active duty service members and recently separated veterans as an ongoing priority for the state. SB 162 eases the transition of service members and their families to civilian life by recognizing professional occupational licenses issued by other jurisdictions.

Occupational Licensing for Military Service Members, Spouses and Veterans

VAMI passed a number of bills that will improve the employability of transitioning service members, spouses of active duty military and veterans. Below are a few of the highlights:

SB 162 Occupational Licenses for Military, Spouses and Veterans (Van de Putte/ Menendez) requires state agencies that issue occupational licenses to recognizing occupational licenses issued by other jurisdictions and provide an expedited licensure for military service members, military spouses, and

military veterans within one year of separation from the military. It also provide a waiver from some law enforcement certification requirements for "special forces" veterans.

SB 229 CDL Residency Waiver (Davis/ Turner, Chris) will allow Texas to take full advantage of federal authority to waive the residency requirements for Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL).

SB 242 Partial Credit Occupational Licenses (Carona/ Farias) requires TDLR to credit verified military service, training, or education towards licensing requirements for all of their occupational licenses.

HB 1960 EMS Certification for Veterans (Cortez/ Campbell) provides a statutory basis for the Health and Human Services Commission to issue Texas EMS certification if the veteran has military combat medic training or a military EMS certification.

HB 2028 Military Experience Toward Plumbing License (Davis/ Turner, Chris) provides statutory support for the Texas State Board of Plumbing Examiners (TSBPE) to credit military experience re-

quirements for veterans applying for plumbing license in the state.

HB 2029 Military Experience Toward Electrician License (Davis/ Turner, Chris) directs the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to credit military experience, training, or education in electrical work obtained toward the requirements needed to obtain an electrician's license in Texas.

HB 2135 Military Experience Toward Private Eye License (Cortez/ Campbell) requires the Texas Private Security Board (PSB) to adopt rules allowing the PSB to waive any prerequisite to obtaining a license or credit military experience toward a license.

HB 2254 Veteran Apprenticeship Credit (Geren/ Van de Putte) requires state agencies to adopt rules to provide credit towards occupational licenses which require an apprenticeship in fields relevant to a service member's training and experience in a military occupational specialty.

SB 260 Excused Absence for Military Kids (Davis/ Stickland)

SB 260 grants up to five days of

The 136th Airlift Wing is on Facebook!!

Visit the link below to "like" us... You don't even have to "friend" us to receive Wing updates for community events, discount tickets, free items such as sporting events, giveaways, special events, and photos of 136 AW Airmen in action. Stay tuned for inclement weather base closure information - now on Facebook.

<http://www.facebook/136AW>

excused absences of a student from school to visit with a parent or guardian who will be or has been deployed on active military duty.

SB 846 Mental Health Training for County Service Officers (Van de Putte/ Menendez)

SB 846 requires the Texas Veterans Commission to coordinate with the Department of State Health Services to incorporate a suicide prevention component in County Service Officer training.

SB 1061 DV Parking on Campus (Van de Putte/ Menendez)

SB 1061 clarifies that institutions of higher education must allow access to handicapped parking spaces regardless of the parking permit requirements if the vehicle displays the appropriate "DV" license plates.

SB 1158 Hazlewood Transfer, Funding and Regional Counselors (Van de Putte/ Menendez)

SB 1158 transfers authority for Hazlewood to the TVC; creates a \$250 million permanent endowment fund for "Legacy" students; and establishes a Veterans Education Counselor program at the TVC.

SB 1200 Texas Military Preparedness Commission Rewrite (Van de Putte/ Menendez)

SB 1200 formally establishes the Texas Commander's Council (TCC) and requires the TMPC to meet with the them at least once each year; expanded eligibility for access to DEAAG grants by allowing communities to proactively apply for grants; and creates a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Task Force at the TMPC.

SB1373 Honor and Remember Flag (Hinojosa/ Miller, Rick)

SB 1373 directs state office buildings and cemeteries managed by the TVLB to display the Honor and Remember flag on specified days and when a Texas resident is killed while serving on active duty.

SB1476 Veteran Entrepreneur Program (West/ Sheffield, Ralph)

SB 1476 establishes a veteran entrepreneur program at the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC), which performs outreach functions to improve veteran entrepreneurs' awareness of federal and state benefits and provide guidance through conferences, seminars, and training workshops with federal and state agencies.

SB 1536 Texas Military Forces Rewrite (Van de Putte/ Menendez)

SB 1536 consolidates current duplicative definitions and modernizes statutory language. Some of the highlights include, changing the agency name to Texas Military Department; clarifying the governor's authority to delegate certain actions to the adjutant general including the authority to activate service members to duty; divides military command and policy making from administrative and operational activities; and provides access to state insurance benefits for a service member deployed for more than 90-days on state orders.

HB 150 Half-Staff Flags (Larson/ Van de Putte)

In honor of fallen military who have paid the ultimate price, HB 150 requires flags at the Capitol be flown at half-staff for one day, after the day the family is notified of a service member's death.

HB 489 Service Dogs for Veterans (Menendez/ Uresti)

HB 489 ensures that Texas law aligns with federal protections offered to a person with post-traumatic stress disorder, seizure disorders, and even diabetes against a challenge or denial of access because of a service animal.

HB 1589 Texas Medal of Honor (Cortez/ Van de Putte)

HB 1589 expands the awarding of the Texas Legislative Medal of Honor to twice per regular session; once to an individual whose service fell between 1835 and 1955, and once to an individual whose service fell after 1955.

HB 2388 Non-Competitive Bid on Base Authority (Menendez/ Van de Putte)

HB 2388 makes Texas more competitive in recruiting new businesses by exempting any redevelopment project of a defense base development authority from the competitive bid process if it is solely privately funded.

HB 2392 Peer-to-Peer Mental Health (Menendez/ Van de Putte)

Peer-to-peer mental health services for veterans are based on a model of formal and informal discussions that allow combat veterans to talk to other combat veterans. HB 2392 expands the definition for "peer" to include family members, incorporates required elements of the program such as access to licensed mental health professionals and grants to regional and local organizations providing these services. Grants awarded under this program must ensure that the maximum amount is spent on direct services to veterans and work

to expand the capacity of the peer-to-peer network.

HB 3063 Defense Base Authority/Tangible Tax Exemption (Menendez/ Van de Putte)

HB 3063 will ensure that land within the boundaries of a defense base development authority will automatically qualify as an enterprise zone. Additionally, this law ensures that “commercial aircraft” being manufactured and/or assembled on a defense base development authority is not taxed as tangible personal property.

HB 3064 Unclaimed Remains of Veterans (Menendez/ Campbell)

HB 3064 lifts the prohibitive restrictions keeping the unclaimed remains of military veterans from receiving proper burial.

HB 3066 Defense Base Authority as an Enterprise Zone (Menendez/ Van de Putte)

H.B. 3066 allows defense base development authorities to be an effective tool for economic development by ensuring automatic qualification as an enterprise zone.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

136th MXS -

1. LOR - failure to pay a debt and misuse of GTC
2. LOR - Fitness test failure
3. LOR - Fitness test failure

Noteable Quote

America is the land of the second chance - and when the gates of the prison open, the path ahead should lead to a better life.

~George W. Bush



Seven members of the Liberty Jump Team land near their marker at Alliance Airport, Texas during their performance jump for the annual air show Oct. 18, 2013. The LJT commemorative jumps honor WWII veterans as well as veterans of all wars. (U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Elizabeth Gilbert/released)

3C3X1 - COMMAND POST
JIW0X2 - (5) COMBAT WEATHER
1A1X1 - (2) FLIGHT ENGINEER
1A2X1 - (3) LOADMASTER
3E4X1 - (2) WATER/FUEL SYSTEMS
3D0X3 - CYBER SYSTEMS SURETY
3E2X1 - (2) PAVE/CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT
1P0X1 (E-8/E9) - AIRCREW FLIGHT EQUIPMENT
2T3X1 - VEHICLE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE
2T2X1 - (2) AIR TRANSPORTATION
2A5X1 - (2) AEROSPACE MAINTENANCE
2A6X5 - (2) AIRCRAFT HYDRAULICS
1C7X1 - AIRFIELD MANAGEMENT
3M0X1 - (2) SERVICES
3N0X5 - (1) PHOTOJOURNALIST

Officer Billets please visit www.agd.state.tx.us or Texas Military Forces for officer vacancies.